

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DDEAN:PDW  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.  
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER  
IO/UNP:POAKLEY (DRAFT)  
EUR/WE:JSWIHART  
S/S-O:AOTTO

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O P 270138Z JAN 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IT, XF

SUBJECT: ITALY IN THE CURRENT SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE  
ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 4125

1. AMBASSADOR GAJA OF ITALY CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ATHERTON JAN 26 TO RAISE TWO QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SC  
DEBATE.

2. GAJA FIRST ASKED ATHERTON WHETHER AT THIS AFTERNOON'S  
SC SESSION ITALY SHOULD WORK FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF DEBATE  
FOR A WEEK. THIS WOULD BE DONE IF ITALY COULD SAY THAT THE

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U.S. WOULD NOT VETO AN AMENDED RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD

EMERGE IN A WEEK'S TIME. ATHERTON SAID HE PRESUMED THAT THE NEW RESOLUTION WOULD STILL RETAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PRESENT RESOLUTION. GAJA REITERATED THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD STILL NOT MENTION THE PLO. ATHERTON THEN SAID THAT THERE WAS NO REALISTIC POSSIBILITY THAT OUR POSITION WOULD BE CHANGED A WEEK FROM NOW. NO MINOR CHANGES IN THE PRESENT TEXT WOULD LEAD TO A CHANGE IN OUR POSITION. ATHERTON ADDED THAT HE SAW NO CHANCE TO GET THE CO-SPONSORS TO AGREE TO ENOUGH CHANGES TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US NOT TO VOTE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION.

3. GAJA'S SECOND QUESTION WAS WHETHER, IF A VOTE WERE HELD TONIGHT, IT WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IF ITALY VOTES FOR THE RESOLUTION OR ABSTAINS. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THE MORE ABSTENTIONS THE BETTER. GAJA POINTED OUT THAT ABSTENTIONS WOULD MAKE NO PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE IF THE U.S. VETOED THE RESOLUTION. ATHERTON SAID THERE WAS INDEED A DIFFERENCE. GIVEN THE PRESENT TEXT, THE U.S. IS GOING TO HAVE TO VETO THE RESOLUTION, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT OTHERS DO, BECAUSE WE FEEL IT IS INHERENTLY DAMAGING TO FUTURE NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS. THE MORE PEOPLE THAT AGREE WITH THE POSITION, AND SHOW IT BY NOT VOTING FOR THE RESOLUTION, THE BETTER. ATHERTON ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN LOBBYING FOR ABSTENTIONS.

4. GAJA SAID THAT ITALY WISHED TO BE HELPFUL IN THE DEBATE AND POINTED OUT THAT HE EXPECTED THE FRENCH WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION WHILE THE BRITISH WOULD ABSTAIN. ITALY WAS "IN BETWEEN" ON THE ISSUE AND WANTED TO DO WHAT WOULD HELP THE U.S. ATHERTON REPEATED THAT AN ABSTENTION WOULD HELP. GAJA ADDED THAT ITALY'S POSITION IN THIS DEBATE WAS CONNECTED TO THE CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS. SOME OF THE ITALIAN PARTIES ARE PRO-ISRAELI AND WOULD LIKE TO INSIST ON A PRO-ISRAELI STAND. THE GOI HAS

AN INTEREST IN LINING UP WITH THE U.S. ATHERTON SAID THAT THAT WAS A MATTER THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE BUT, FOR OUR PART, WE WOULD PREFER AT LEAST MORE ABSTENTIONS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Subject:** ITALY IN THE CURRENT SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST  
**TAGS:** PFOR, US, IT, XF, UNSC, (GAJA)  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
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